



Attorney Docket: 26332  
Date: January 11, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
ALBERTI, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/508,748  
Filed: September 21, 2004  
Title: INNOVATIVE METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROTON  
CONDUCTING NANOPOLYMERIC MEMBRANES FOR USE IN FUEL CELLS  
OR IN CATALYTIC MEMBRANE REACTORS

Art Unit: 1745  
Examiner: Unknown

# TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is the following:

- 1) Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2) PTO Form-1449 with 7 cited References;
- 3) PCT/ISA/220 (Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report) for PCT/EP2003/002904;
- 4) PCT/ISA/210 (International Search Report) for PCT/EP2003/002904;
- 5) Copies of the 7 cited References.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,  
**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**

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## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98. Please note the following particulars: **[NOTE: One only of items a, b, c, and d must be checked.]**

- ☐ [XXX] a. The enclosed statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.
- ☐ [ ] b. The enclosed statement is being filed after a first action on the merits but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311.  
The enclosed statement is accompanied by [check one]:  
☐ [ ] i. a certification in part (e) below as specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), or  
☐ [ ] ii. a check in the amount required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).
- ☐ [ ] c. The enclosed statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113,

or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, but before payment of the issue fee.

☐ Certification report(e) below; and

☐ a check in the amount as required by 1.17(p).

☐ d. The enclosed statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(i), for placement in the file.

☐ e. Certification [Check one] [Certification is required only if box (b)(i) or box (c) is checked.]

☐ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement,

or

☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

or

☐ Appropriate certification is attached.

[XXX] f. If no check is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the check enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

[XXX] g. Copies of the documents are attached herewith with a completed Form PTO-1449.

or

[ ] Copies of the documents are not attached as allowed under CFR 1.98(d)(1)(2). The earlier application is identified as:

and / or

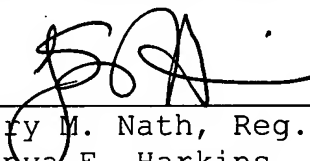
[XXX] Copies of US Patents/Publications not attached as allowed in Official Gazette Aug. 5, 2003/ Vol. 1273, no. 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to cite the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action. In so doing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial in the space adjacent to the listing of each document on the Form PTO-1449, and return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication to Applicants, to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, kindly telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.


Respectfully submitted,

**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**



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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b><u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</u></b>		In re Application of: ALBERTI, et al. Serial No: 10/508,748		Filed: September 21, 2004	Art Unit: 1745  Examiner: Unknown
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue / Publication Date	Inventor	Filed
	A1				
	A2				
	A3				
	A4				
	A5				
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Translation
	A6	2 753 971 A1	3 Apr. 1998	FR	Abstract
	A7	03/077340 A2	18 Sep. 2003	WO	N/A
	A8				
	A9				
<b>OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>					
	A10	Alberti, G., et al., "Inorgano-organic proton conducting membranes for fuel cells and sensors at medium temperatures", <u>Journal of Membrane Science</u> , Vol. 172, Pages 233-239, (2000).			
	A11	XP-000359485: Alberti, G., et al., "Protonic conductivity of layered zirconium phosphonates containing -SO <sub>3</sub> H groups. I. Preparation and characterization of a mixed zirconium phosphonate of composition Zr(O <sub>3</sub> PR) <sub>0.73</sub> (O <sub>3</sub> PR') <sub>1.27</sub> ·nH <sub>2</sub> O, with R=-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -SO <sub>3</sub> H", <u>Solid State Ionics</u> , Vol. 50, Pages 315-322, (1992).			
	A12	Costamagna, P., et al., "Nafion® 115/zirconium phosphate composite membranes for operation of PEMFCs above 100 °C", <u>Electrochimica Acta</u> , Vol. 47, Pages 1023-1033, (2002).			
	A13	XP-002325215: Rosenthal, G.L., et al., "Synthesis and Structural Analysis of Pure and Mixed Zirconium Phosphonates, Zr(O <sub>3</sub> PR) <sub>x</sub> (O <sub>3</sub> PR') <sub>2-x</sub> ", <u>Journal of Solid State Chemistry</u> , Vol. 107, Pages 497-502, (1993).			
	A14	Stein, E.W., et al., "Conductivity of group IV metal sulfophosphonates and a new class of interstratified metal amine-sulfophosphonates", <u>Solid State Ionics</u> , Vol. 83, Pages 113-124, (1996).			
	A15				
Examiner			Date Considered		
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP ' 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.					